

Genoa. -

Sept. 1822.

Dear W-

You are right - poetry is a sea without  
shore - I have launched my boat - and I must swim  
on - After all it is a miserable craft - I have written -  
because I could not help it. - I found the public life -  
and so I started on. I have never written for fame - and  
if a solitary echo from my lyre should in after ages linger  
about the world like a breeze that has lost its way - I  
am ever content. Poets have been called the unacknowledged  
legislators of the world - if this be the case - I disclaim all  
pretension to legislation. I despise the three or four thousand  
civilized savages for whom people sweat their brains - and  
whose fetid breath - perfumed with musk is ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~air~~ <sup>air</sup> -  
Pah! - I have done something - and shown my contempt  
for them - No one can deny that - I will some day, if



I have an opportunity - give them another proof of  
it - I owe it them - I have got a Damascus  
blade in store for their thick hides. "I will turn  
their flanks yet!" - But it is hardly worth while  
gaining a victory where conquest brings no glory - That  
what is now called personality is a very ancient - perhaps  
an inveterate quality of all criticism - Old Dennis - the  
Jeffer of Queen Anne's time, says of Pope - "We would  
suppose that this youngster had exposed some antiquated  
Mure - who had wed out a divorce from some superannuated  
sinner - and who being

has got the gout in her decrepit age,  
which makes her hobble so lamely" - This is pretty  
plain & free criticism - Watch it if you can - The new  
theory against personalities makes me adhere to the rule  
I have adopted - viz - to use against my adversaries  
the weapons which they have themselves used - From



their own cradles and organs I will show them that  
they have far exceeded - both in spite & venom - the  
stoutest malice of my bitterest resentment - I would remind  
the thick-skinned genting that when I sneer at the archbishop  
bishops - I have the canonical authority of Pope for my example.  
Pray - write soon - and tell me when I may expect you  
in la bella Italia - ever yours very affectionately

Byron

GENOVA



Anglicana

PD

in Gadsby's letter.

After Brook Street.

London.

Anglicana.

CENOMAN

1851  
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1851